

When Sinclair Broadcasting pre-empted regularly-scheduled programming to air an inaccurate political advertisement in the guise of documentary news, they displayed clear intentionality to abuse their government-sanctioned airways for their own political and economic ends. The fact that Sinclair is among the largest -- if not THE largest -- single owner of local airways makes this action border on the criminal.

The FCC ought to charge each market for the inappropriate political use of their free airways it granted them. This action, taken so soon after Congress considered enlarging the rights of media corporations to own newspapers, radios and televisions in a single market, is the perfect illustration of why media conglomerates are such a hindrance to the best exercise of the democratic process.

Democrat or Republican. It makes no difference. The idea stinks, and Sinclair ought to be held responsible.